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SPT 2007 Conference: Call for Papers

Call for Papers
Society for Philosophy and
Technology
2007 Biennial Meeting
Charleston, South Carolina USA, July
8-11, 2007

Conference Theme:
Technology and Globalization

The globalization of the world is a phenomenon which has always depended on technology. Although much of the recent attention to globalization focuses on it as a recent development, escalating since the end of World War II and exploding in the post-Cold War period, the world's diverse societies have been drawn into complex inter-connections throughout the modern period, and even before with the great ancient empires. Yet the phenomenon of globalization involves technology and the distribution of power, and is therefore a topic which cries out for the attention of philosophers. As philosophers, we have much to say about the ways technologies interact with, affect and are affected by society. Inspired by the international popularity of Thomas L. Friedman's book *The World is Flat*, the 2007 meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Technology will be focused on the ways that technology shapes and is shaped by the

multidimensional phenomenon of globalization.

For millennia technologies have transported people and goods, though more recently communication technologies have been playing the key role. Military, manufacturing, and educational technologies are also key vectors and tools of globalization. These global technologies serve as vectors to bring peoples and cultures together—sometimes in cooperation, sometimes in conflict, sometimes in competition—but they also carry social values, beliefs and ethics. From this perspective, globalization is clearly as much a political as a technological phenomenon, and is ripe for considered, philosophical examination.

Charleston, South Carolina is an ideal place to consider the philosophical ramifications of globalization, being of the United States largest ports. Millions of tons of cargo flow into the US through Charleston, and the port also handles over millions of tons of exports. However, in the 18th century, Charleston acted as the central port of the American slave trade in the 18th century, serving as the disembarkation point for millions of Africans forcibly entering America. Clearly one of the philosophically interesting complexities of globalization is the movement of people, whether voluntarily or not. In addition, Charleston is one of the United States most beautiful cities, with



many activities available from walking tours of the restored antebellum restoration to nature tours to museums and an exciting nightlife of top-notch restaurants and bars. The conference will be held at the Francis Marion Hotel in the historic section of the city, with rooms available for \$109/night, plus taxes.

The conference will begin with a plenary session and reception on the evening of July 8th, 2007. Sessions will be held on July 9, 10, and 11. At this point, scheduled speakers include:

- Heather Widdows, Acting Director of the Centre for Global Ethics, University of Birmingham, UK
- Peters Kroes, SPT President

The Society for Philosophy and Technology has sponsored conferences on philosophical aspects of technology since the late 1970s. Current conferences are held every other year, rotating between North America and Europe. The Society welcomes a broad range of papers from various philosophical perspectives and schools. This year, the program committee especially invites submissions on the conference theme of technology and globalization, but submissions on all aspects of philosophy and technology are welcome, including work on emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, genetics and philosophy, nanotechnology and information technology. The conference theme may be interpreted broadly, inclusive of:

1. Philosophical Dimensions of Globalization, including the Impact of the Internet
2. The metaphysics, epistemology and ontology of globalization
3. The Ethics of Outsourcing in a Global Economy
4. The changing nature of space and time in a global economy.
5. The Internet, globalization and changes in economics
6. The globalization of higher education, especially engineering education
7. The ethics of hegemony and empire, with particular attention to the role of technologies
8. Following Thomas Friedman's lead, comparisons between older versions of globalization and the current phenomenon.
9. Technology and population movements

The Program Committee is still being finalized, but will be chaired by Joseph Pitt of Virginia Tech. Currently, other confirmed members include: David Kaplan, University of North Texas; Anne Fitzpatrick, Los Alamos National Laboratories; Ibo Van de Poel, Delft University of Technology.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to the conference may be made with an abstract of 200-400 words. Proposals for full sessions are also welcome; please include abstracts for all papers to be included in sessions. Proposals should be made electronically as a Word (.doc), Rich Text Format (.rtf) or Portable Document Format (.pdf)



attachment to: jcpitt@vt.edu. The deadline for submissions is January 1, 2007. Notifications will be made around March 1, 2007. Papers will be due to commentators

on June 1, 2007. If you are interested in serving as a commentator, please send a short email to jcpitt@vt.edu.

Conferences, Workshops, and Lectures

Scientific Workshop "Engaging science and society in the ethics of genome research: analyses, reflections and perspectives"

21st to 23rd of September 2006, Kleiner Festsaal, University of Vienna, Dr.-Karl-Lueger-Ring 1, 1010 Vienna

The dynamic development of genome research raises fundamental ethical and social questions concerning its implications for our societies, a fact which equally applies to other emerging technosciences such as nanotechnology or "converging technologies". Over the past decades, methods have been developed to reflexively engage with the implications of new technoscientific knowledge for social order. Ethical reflection and public engagement with the social dimensions of technoscientific development are two traditions dealing with these issues. Though both may be argued to share common goals, their relation to each other is unclear and often controversial as is reflected in the debate around "empirical ethics". This workshop is the concluding event of a project, which aimed at experimenting with a

cross-over between these two traditions: engaging both scientists and members of the public with the ethical dimensions of genome research. Over the period of one year, a group of people met with genome researchers at seven Round Tables to discuss the ethical and social dimensions of their concrete project and genome research in general. To develop a better understanding of this engagement and possible mutual learning processes is the central goal of our project.

The workshop aims at sharing and discussing the results of our analysis with the scientific community and practitioners working on similar issues. It will be organised around four thematic foci: Possibilities and limits of addressing ethics of genome research in a public engagement exercise

(Non)Participating in which kind of governance?: Reflecting the Round Table as a participatory setting

Talking science: Images, imaginations and conceptions of science/scientists as discursive elements



Public engagement as mutual learning: Situated perspectives and learning processes

In order to allow for ample discussion time, the workshop will be organised around four plenary sessions, an opening and a closing panel as well as a poster session. Each plenary session will have an input from one invited speaker as well as from a member of our research team

The Workshop is organised by the Department of Social Studies of Science, University of Vienna in cooperation with the IFZ - Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture - Graz

No workshop fee; registration is mandatory. Contact address for registration, poster submission and inquiries: projekt.wissenschaftsforschung (at) univie.ac.at Updated Workshop Programme: <http://www.univie.ac.at/virusss/workshops/>

IR 7.0: INTERNET CONVERGENCES International and Interdisciplinary Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers *Brisbane, Australia, 28-30 September 2006; pre-Conference Workshops: 27 September 2006*

The Internet works as an arena of convergence. Physically dispersed and marginalized people (re)find themselves

online for the sake of sustaining and extending community. International and interdisciplinary teams now collaborate in new ways. Diverse cultures engage one another via CMC. These technologies relocate and refocus capital, labor and immigration, and they open up new possibilities for political, potentially democratizing, forms of discourse. Moreover, these technologies themselves converge in multiple ways, e.g. in Internet-enabled mobile phones, in Internet-based telephony, and in computers themselves as "digital appliances" that conjoin communication and multiple media forms. These technologies also facilitate fragmentations with greater disparities between the information-haves and have-nots, between winners and losers in the shifting labor and capital markets, and between individuals and communities. Additionally these technologies facilitate information filtering that reinforces, rather than dialogically challenges, narrow and extreme views. Topics of interest include:

- Theoretical and practical models of the Internet
- Internet convergence, divergence and fragmentation
- Networked flows of information, capital, labor, etc.
- Migrations and diasporas online
- Identity, community and global communication
- Regulation and control (national and global)
- Internet-based development and other economic issues
- Digital art and aesthetics



- Games and gaming on the Internet
- The Net generation
- E-Sectors, e.g. e-health, e-education, e-business

Prior to the conference, there will be a limited number of pre-conference workshops which will provide participants with in-depth, hands-on and/or creative opportunities.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Program Chair: Dr Fay Sudweeks, Murdoch University, Australia: F.Sudweeks [at] murdoch.edu.au

Conference Chair: Dr Axel Bruns, Queensland University of Technology, Australia: a.bruns [at] qut.edu.au

President of AoIR: Dr Matthew Allen, Curtin University of Technology, Australia: m.allen [at] curtin.edu.au

Association Website: <http://www.aoir.org>
Conference Website: <http://conferences.aoir.org>

The First Biennial CEPTESSymposium

Friday September 29 2006,
10.00 – 17.00 hours

Location: Drienerburgh, University of Twente, The Netherlands

The Department of Philosophy is proud to enounce the establishment of the Centre for Philosophy of Technology and Engineering Science (CEPTES). CEPTES is a new

centre at the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences. Its First Biennial Symposium will be held September 29, 2006. CEPTES exists to promote scholarship and research in the philosophy of technology and engineering science, and to encourage scholarly exchanges between philosophy, engineering science, and social science. The center is dedicated to bridge the gulf between the humanities and engineering sciences, and to develop and disseminate a philosophical understanding of technology and engineering science and their impact on society. For more information, please visit our website (www.ceptes.nl) and our portal on the philosophy of technology and science (www.phil-tech.org).

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Ir. D. Reinhoudt, MESA+ (Institute for Nanotechnology), University of Twente, The Netherlands.

Prof. Dr. A. Johnson, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, US.

Dr. Ir. M. Boon, Philosophy Department, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Prof. Dr. W. Kruijer, Department Molecular Cell Biology, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Dr. Tsj. Swierstra, Philosophy Department, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Dr. I. Bante, CTIT (Institute for Information Technology, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Prof. Dr. J. van den Hoven, Department of Philosophy, Delft University, The Netherlands



Chair:

Dr. P. Brey, Director of CEPTES (Department of Philosophy), University of Twente, The Netherlands.

Organization:

K. Waelbers, MSc. Ma., Coordinator of CEPTES (Department of Philosophy), University of Twente, The Netherlands.

Registration is free and can be done by sending your name and affiliation to Katinka Waelbers: K.Waelbers@utwente.nl, stating your interest to attend the First Biennial CEPTES Symposium.

Postphenomenology and the Contemporary Life-World – Session at SPEP / SPS conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 13
Sheraton Society Hill Hotel at 1 Dock St., Philadelphia, Friday 2:00-4:00pm

At the 2006 conference of the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, which will be organized in conjunction with the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, there will be a session on 'Postphenomenology and the Contemporary Life-World'. The session will take place Friday October 13, 2 – 4 pm.

Chair:

Paul Richer, Duquesne University

Papers:

- "Globalization and Technology: What is to Become of Phenomenology?", Paul Richer, Duquesne University
- "What is Postphenomenology?" Don Ihde, SUNY/Stony Brook
- "Unruly Perception" Catherine Hesse, Denmark Pedagogical University
- "The Technological Mediation of Morality," Peter-Paul Verbeek, Twente University, The Netherlands
- "Does Globalization Empower?" Evan Selinger, Rochester Institute of Technology

Conference Religion, Science, and Public Concern – Discourses on Ethics, Ecology, and Genomics
26 & 27 October, 2006, Leiden University, The Netherlands

The aim of the conference, organized by the Faculty of Theology at Leiden University, is to bring together those interested in interactions between religion, ethics, and science in public discourses. In reflecting upon the social and moral jobs that speakers expect religious, ethical, and scientific notions to do, we may acquire a better understanding of debates on controversial issues of public policy and on the understanding of the role of and the relation between religion, ethics, science, politics, and technology.

The conference is intended for scholars, scientists, politicians, policymakers and



other interested parties. In plenary sessions and workshops participants will discuss several issues regarding discourses on religion, science, ethics, ecology, and genomics.

Organization: Willem B. Drees, Olga Crapels, Tony Watling, Taede Smedes
This conference is realized with the support of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) in the context of its programme The Future of the Religious Past.

Lectures, paper presentations & discussions
Main speakers:

- Bronislaw Szerszynski
- Hans Achterhuis

- Gerrit de Kruijf
- Hub Zwart
- Jan Boersema

Visit our website for the provisional program, more information and registration:
WWW.RSPC-CONFERENCE.NL

Address:
University of Leiden
Faculty of Theology
Prof. Dr. W. B. Drees
Postbus 9515
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands
www.rspc-conference.nl

Recent publications of interest

In Search of an Integrative Vision for Technology
Interdisciplinary Studies in Information Systems
Edited by Sytse Strijbos and Andrew Basden

In Search Of An Integrative Vision For Technology will stimulate its readers to consider the 'whole story that is information systems' within the context of an integrative vision of technology. It integrates disparate areas of debate and research while appreciating the contribution that philosophy can make to such thinking. It is deliberately broad in coverage, and designed to provide

useful pointers so that researchers, students, practitioners, and developers can easily apply each point as needed. "Human issues of technology and their normative aspects" is a theme that runs throughout the entire book. The integrative vision is centered on an understanding of human practice — the twin notions of structure and direction, and the leading and the founding functions of such practice. While this understanding applies to all technologies, it is worked out in more detail for information technology. From this philosophical understanding, many interdisciplinary areas of interest are identified.



Contents:

Introduction: In search of an integrative vision for technology.- Part I -Artifacts and their development.- Aspects of knowledge representation.- Reflecting on the use of the concept of qualifying function in system design.- Elicitation of highly interdisciplinary knowledge.- An appreciative critique and refinement of Checkland's soft systems methodology.- Part II: Socio-technical systems.- The systems character of modern technology.- Communication without bounds?.- Norms of communication and the rise of the network society.- Part III: Human practices.- Evaluation of systems in human practice.- Multimodal investigation of technology-aided human practice in business operations.- An aspectual understanding of the human use of information technology.- Part IV: Directional perspectives.- The idea of a systems ethics.- Normative sources of systems thinking-an inquiry into religious ground-motives of systems thinking paradigms.- Towards a 'disclosure systems thinking'.- Part IV: Critical reflections.- Reflections on the CPTS model of interdisciplinarity.- Technology and systems - but what about the humanities?.- References.- Index.

2006 XIX, 310 p. Hardcover
Contemporary Systems Thinking
ISBN 0-387-32150-0 • € 89.95 | £ 69.00

Expanding postphenomenology – a Critical Companion to Ihde

Edited by Evan Selinger

Postphenomenology is the first book devoted exclusively to the interpretation and advancement of prominent phenomenologist Don Ihde's landmark contributions to history, philosophy, sociology, science, sound studies, and technology studies. Ihde has made a direct and lasting impact on the study of technological experience across the disciplines and acquired an international following of diverse scholars along the way, many of whom contribute to Postphenomenology, including Albert Borgmann, who characterizes Ihde as being "among the most interesting and provocative contemporary American philosophers." The contributors situate, assess, and apply Ihde's philosophy with respect to the primary themes that his oeuvre emphasizes. They not only clarify Ihde's work, but also make significant contributions to the philosophy of technology, phenomenology, hermeneutics, and the philosophy of science. A comprehensive response from Ihde concludes the volume.

Contributors include Albert Borgmann, Richard A. Cohen, Robert P. Crease, Andrew Feenberg, Peter Galison, Donna J. Haraway, Don Ihde, Lenore Langsdorf, Hans Lenk, Judy Lochhead, Carl Mitcham, Finn Olesen, Andrew Pickering, Trevor Pinch, Robert C. Scharff, Evan Selinger, Vivian Sobchack, Paul B. Thompson, Peter-Paul Verbeek, and Donn Welton.



Evan Selinger is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the Rochester Institute of Technology and the coeditor (with Don Ihde) of Chasing Technoscience: Matrix for Materiality.

Implementing the Precautionary Principle: Perspectives and Prospects
Edited by Elizabeth Fisher, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford, UK,

Judith Jones, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia and René von Schomberg, Directorate General for Research, European Commission

Edward Elgar publishing, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, US: June 2006, 352 pages, ISBN 13 978 1 84542 702 3

This challenging book takes a broad and thought-provoking look at the precautionary principle and its implementation, or potential implementation, in a number of fields. In particular, the essays within the book explore the challenges faced by public decision-making processes when applying the precautionary principle, including its role in risk management and risk assessment. Frameworks for improved decision making are considered, followed by a detailed analysis of prospective applications of the precautionary principle in a number of emerging fields including: nanotechnology, climate change, natural resource management and public health policy. The analysis is both coherent and interdisciplinary, employing perspectives

from law, the social sciences and public policy with a view to improving both the legitimacy and effectiveness of public policy at national and international levels.

order info: <http://www.e-elgar.com>

The Body and the Screen – Theories of Internet Spectatorship

By Michele White

Internet and computer users are often represented onscreen as active and empowered—as in AOL's striding yellow figure and the interface hand that appears to manipulate software and hypertext links. In *The Body and the Screen* Michele White suggests that users can more properly be understood as spectators rendered and regulated by technologies and representations, for whom looking and the mediation of the screen are significant aspects of engagement. Drawing on apparatus and feminist psychoanalytic film theories, art history, gender studies, queer theory, critical race and postcolonial studies, and other theories of cultural production, White conceptualizes Internet and computer spectatorship and provides theoretical models that can be employed in other analyses. She offers case studies and close visual and textual analysis of the construction of spectatorship in different settings.

White shows that despite the onscreen promise of empowerment and coherence (through depictions of materiality that



structure the experience), fragmentation and confusion are constant aspects of Internet spectatorship. She analyzes spectatorship in multi-user object-oriented settings (MOOs) by examining the textual process of looking and gazing, contrasts the experiences of the women's webcam spectator and operator, describes intentional technological failures in net art, and considers ways in which traditional conceptions of artistry, authorship, and production techniques persist in Internet and computer settings (as seen in the creation of virtual environment avatars and in digital imaging art). Finally, she analyzes the physical and psychic pain described by male programmers in Internet forums as another counternarrative to the common tale of the empowered user. Spectatorship, White argues, not only affects the way specific interfaces are understood but also helps shape larger conceptions of self and society.

Michele White is Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Tulane University.

MIT Press, June 2006 ISBN 0-262-23249-9 \$35.00/£22.95 (CLOTH)

Human Rights in the Global Information Society

Edited by Rikke Frank Jørgensen

International organizations, governments, academia, industry, and the media have all begun to grapple with the information society as a global policy issue. The first

United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in December 2003, recognized the connections between information technology and human rights with a Declaration of Principles—in effect, the first "constitution" for cyberspace—that called for the development of the information society to conform to recognized standards of human rights. Critical issues in the policy debates around WSIS have been the so-called digital divide, which reflects a knowledge divide, a social divide, and an economic divide; and the need for a nondiscriminatory information society to provide universal access to information technology in local languages throughout the developing world. Other crucial issues include the regulatory frameworks for information access and ownership and such basic freedoms as the right to privacy. The contributors to this timely volume examine the links between information technology and human rights from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Scholars, human rights activists, and practitioners discuss such topics as freedom of expression, access to information, privacy, discrimination, gender equality, intellectual property, political participation, and freedom of assembly in the context of the revolution in information and communication technology, exploring the ways in which the information society can either advance human rights around the world or threaten them. An afterword reports on the November 2005 WSIS, held in Tunis, and its reaffirmation of the fundamental role of human rights in the global information society.

*Contributors:*

David Banisar, William Drake, Ran Greenstein, Anriette Esterhuysen, Robin Gross, Gus Hosein, Heike Jensen, Rikke Frank Jørgensen, Hans Klein, Charley Lewis, Meryem Marzouki, Birgitte Kofod Olsen, Kay Raseroka, Adama Samassékou, Mandana Zarrehparvar

Rikke Frank Jørgensen is Senior Adviser at the Danish Institute for Human Rights and adviser to the Danish Delegation to the World Summit on the Information Society. She is on the boards of Digital Rights (DK) and European Digital Rights (EDRI).

MIT Press, June 2006 ISBN 0-262-60067-6 \$25.00/£16.95 (PAPER)

**Technology Matters –
Questions to Live With**

By David E. Nye

Technology matters, writes David Nye, because it is inseparable from being human. We have used tools for more than 100,000 years, and their central purpose has not always been to provide necessities. People excel at using old tools to solve new problems and at inventing new tools for more elegant solutions to old tasks. Perhaps this is because we are intimate with devices and machines from an early age--as children, we play with technological toys: trucks, cars, stoves, telephones, model railroads, Playstations. Through these machines we imagine ourselves into a

creative relationship with the world. As adults, we retain this technological playfulness with gadgets and appliances--Blackberries, cell phones, GPS navigation systems in our cars.

We use technology to shape our world, yet we think little about the choices we are making. In *Technology Matters*, Nye tackles ten central questions about our relationship to technology, integrating a half-century of ideas about technology into ten cogent and concise chapters, with wide-ranging historical examples from many societies. He asks: Can we define technology? Does technology shape us, or do we shape it? Is technology inevitable or unpredictable? (Why do experts often fail to get it right?)? How do historians understand it? Are we using modern technology to create cultural uniformity, or diversity? To create abundance, or an ecological crisis? To destroy jobs or create new opportunities? Should "the market" choose our technologies? Do advanced technologies make us more secure, or escalate dangers? Does ubiquitous technology expand our mental horizons, or encapsulate us in artifice?

These large questions may have no final answers yet, but we need to wrestle with them--to live them, so that we may, as Rilke puts it, "live along some distant day into the answers."

David E. Nye is Professor of Comparative American Studies and History at Warwick University.



Nye was recently awarded the 2005 Leonardo Da Vinci Medal presented by the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). The medal is the highest recognition from the Society for the History of Technology and is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the history of technology, through research, teaching, publications, and other activities.

MIT Press, March 2006 ISBN 0-262-14093-4 \$27.95/£18.95 (CLOTH)

**Women and Information Technology –
Research on Underrepresentation**

Edited by J. McGrath Cohoon and William Aspray

Computing remains a heavily male-dominated field even after twenty-five years of extensive efforts to promote female participation. The contributors to *Women and Information Technology* look at reasons for the persistent gender imbalance in computing and explore some strategies intended to reverse the downward trend. The studies included are rigorous social science investigations; they rely on empirical evidence--not rhetoric, hunches, folk wisdom, or off-the-cuff speculation about supposed innate differences between men and women.

Taking advantage of the recent surge in research in this area, the editors present the latest findings of both qualitative and quantitative studies. Each section begins

with an overview of the literature on current research in the field, followed by individual studies. The first section investigates the relationship between gender and information technology among preteens and adolescents, with each study considering what could lead girls' interest in computing to diverge from boys'; the second section, on higher education, includes a nationwide study of computing programs and a cross-national comparison of computing education; the final section, on pathways into the IT workforce, considers both traditional and nontraditional paths to computing careers.

J. McGrath Cohoon is Assistant Professor in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Virginia. She is also a Senior Research Scientist at the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

William Aspray is Rudy Professor of Informatics in the School of Informatics, Indiana University, and former Executive Director of the Computing Research Association.

MIT Press March 2006 ISBN 0-262-03345-3 \$45.00/£29.95 (CLOTH)



**Deep Time of the Media –
Toward an Archaeology of Hearing and
Seeing by Technical Means**

*By Siegfried Zielinski; Translated by Gloria
Custance*

Deep Time of the Media takes us on an archaeological quest into the hidden layers of media development -- dynamic moments of intense activity in media design and construction that have been largely ignored in the historical-media archaeological record. Siegfried Zielinski argues that the history of the media does not proceed predictably from primitive tools to complex machinery; in Deep Time of the Media, he illuminates turning points of media history -- fractures in the predictable -- that help us see the new in the old.

Drawing on original source materials, Zielinski explores the technology of devices for hearing and seeing through two thousand years of cultural and technological history. He discovers the contributions of "dreamers and modelers" of media worlds, from the ancient Greek philosopher Empedocles and natural philosophers of the Renaissance and Baroque periods to Russian avant-gardists of the early twentieth century. "Media are spaces of action for constructed attempts to connect what is separated," Zielinski writes. He describes models and machines that make this connection: including a theater of mirrors in sixteenth-century Naples, an automaton for musical composition created by the seventeenth-century Jesuit Athanasius Kircher, and the eighteenth-century

electrical tele-writing machine of Joseph Mazzolari, among others. Uncovering these moments in the media-archaeological record, Zielinski says, brings us into a new relationship with present-day moments; these discoveries in the "deep time" media history shed light on today's media landscape and may help us map our expedition to the media future.

Siegfried Zielinski, a founder of the new field of media archaeology, is Founding Director of the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, where he is Professor of Media and Communication Studies and is developing a workshop for a variantology of the media. He has published more than a dozen books and many articles. Deep Time of the Media is the second of his books to appear in English.

MIT Press January 2006 ISBN 0-262-24049-1 \$39.95/£25.95 (CLOTH)

**Control and Freedom – Power and
Paranoia in the Age of Fiber Optics**

By Wendy Hui Kyong Chun

How has the Internet, a medium that thrives on control, been accepted as a medium of freedom? Why is freedom increasingly indistinguishable from paranoid control? In Control and Freedom, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun explores the current political and technological coupling of freedom with control by tracing the emergence of the Internet as a mass medium. The parallel (and paranoid) myths of the Internet as total



freedom/total control, she says, stem from our reduction of political problems into technological ones.

Drawing on the theories of Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault and analyzing such phenomena as Webcams and face-recognition technology, Chun argues that the relationship between control and freedom in networked contact is experienced and negotiated through sexuality and race. She traces the desire for cyberspace to cyberpunk fiction and maps the transformation of public/private into open/closed. Analyzing "pornocracy," she contends that it was through cyberporn and the government's attempts to regulate it that the Internet became a marketplace of ideas and commodities. Chun describes the way Internet promoters conflated technological empowerment with racial empowerment and, through close examinations of William Gibson's Neuromancer and Mamoru Oshii's Ghost in the Shell, she analyzes the management of interactivity in narratives of

cyberspace.

The Internet's potential for democracy stems not from illusory promises of individual empowerment, Chun argues, but rather from the ways in which it exposes us to others (and to other machines) in ways we cannot control. Using fiber optic networks -- light coursing through glass tubes -- as metaphor and reality, Control and Freedom engages the rich philosophical tradition of light as a figure for knowledge, clarification, surveillance, and discipline, in order to argue that fiber-optic networks physically instantiate, and thus shatter, enlightenment.

Wendy Hui Kyong Chun is Associate Professor of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. She has studied both Systems Design Engineering and English Literature.

MIT Press January 2006 ISBN 0-262-03332-1 \$37.50/£24.95 (CLOTH)



Membership and Dues

SPT Membership

SPT welcomes as members persons from all countries whose professional interests include philosophically significant considerations of technology. Membership is open to those who have an advanced degree (typically but not necessarily in philosophy), to those who are in a technological field, and to students whose work is in keeping with the interests of the Society. Dues are \$20US per year, which includes a subscription to the SPT Newsletter (dues for students are \$15US, and gratis for people in developing nations).

Ways to pay your dues

Payment of SPT dues is being handled by the Philosophy Documentation Center. Dues can be paid by cheque, money order or credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER). Payments by any of these methods can be sent to the address below. Credit card payments can also be made by fax or over the phone via the numbers below. (For credit card payments include card number and expiration date).

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